United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service

NA

MFO

Reply to: 3410

July 10, 1990

Subject: Aerial Survey, Forest Pest Damage - Monongahela National Forest, June 1990

To: Forest Supervisor
Monongahela National Forest

During the week of June 18-22, 1990, Kelly Riddle and Jim Dobson, FPM, Morgantown, conducted an aerial survey for recent pest damage on the Monongahela National Forest. Due to inclement weather, only about 1/2 of the forest was surveyed. The Cheat and Gauley Ranger Districts were flown to completion. However, only parts of the Potomac, Marlinton, and Greenbrier Ranger Districts were able to be surveyed.

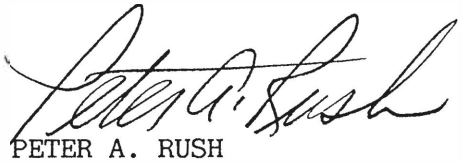
Gyspy moth defoliation appeared on the forest for the first time and seemed to be the only significant pest damage occurring on the areas surveyed.

Monica Gallion, Potomac Ranger District, accompanied FPM personnel during the flight over the Potomac District. Moderate-severe defoliation was detected on approximately 200 acres of National Forest property scattered over 4 separate sites. The largest pocket of defoliation is approximately 94 acres in size and lies between Broad Run and Laurel Run along Fore Knobs. The other three areas of defoliation are approximately 60, 36, and 10 acres respectively and are located in and around Broad and Laurel Runs and east of Bear Rocks. Map 1 shows the general location of these defoliated areas. It should be noted that significant amounts of defoliation occurred just north of the Forest boundary along the ridges and that new areas of defoliation will likely occur next year throughout a much larger area of the District.

Gypsy moth defoliation was not documented on the Cheat Ranger District, however, moderate defoliation was located approximately 1.5 miles northeast of Horseshoe Run on Maple Run and 3.5 miles southeast of Redhouse, Maryland. Because of the close proximity of the defoliation to the Forest boundary, we expect defoliating populations to occur within the northeastern sections of the Cheat District next year. The leading edge of defoliation north of the Forest is shown on Map 2.

The balance of the Forest surveyed seemed to be healthy and significant pest problems were not encountered. During the flight of the Gauley Ranger District, contract photographer, Jerry Rader, who was working with Roger Ridgeway, Gauley Ranger District, accompanied FPM personnel and was able to photograph scenic areas along the Cranberry and Williams Rivers, the Cranberry Glades, and the Visitor Center along the Scenic Highway.

It is unfortunate that weather delays and scheduling conflicts did not allow the entire forest to be flown, however, we feel that the areas of highest probability of having gypsy moth defoliation were surveyed. If you have any questions regarding this survey or any other pest problems please notify our office.

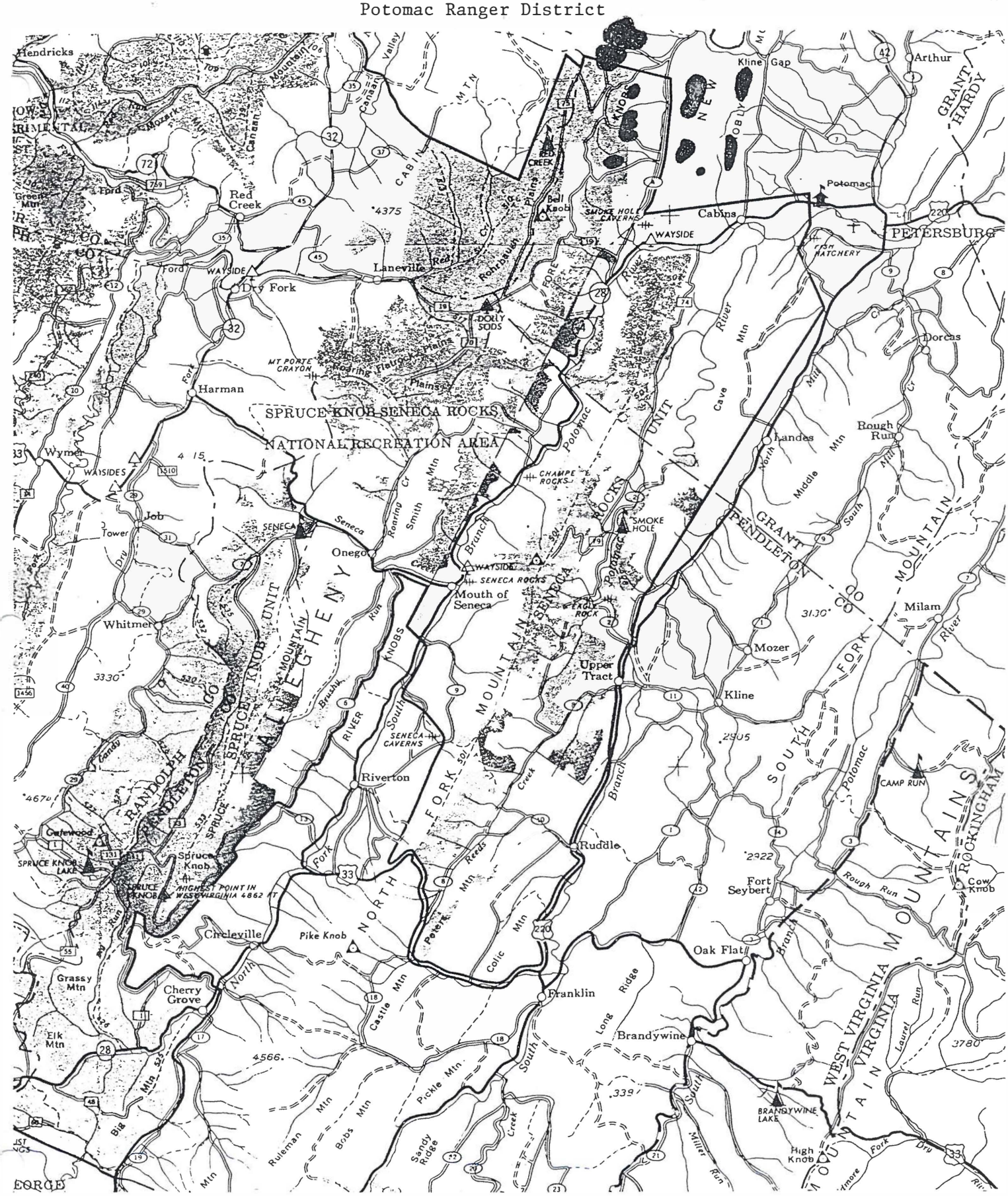


PETER A. RUSH
Field Representative
Forest Pest Management

cc: AO
Allan Bullard, AIPM
Larry Yarger
District Ranger, Cheat Ranger District
District Ranger, Potomac Ranger District
District Ranger, Greenbrier Ranger District
District Ranger, Marlinton Ranger District
District Ranger, Gauley Ranger District
District Ranger, White Sulphur Ranger District

KSR/PAR/mae

Map 1. Gypsy Moth Defoliation
Potomac Ranger District



Map 2. Gypsy Moth Defoliation
Cheat Ranger District